

# **Learning English with CBC Calgary**

## **Weekly newscast**

### **April 26<sup>th</sup> 2013**

**Lessons prepared by Justine Light & Barbara Edmondson**

#### **Objectives of the weekly newscast lesson**

- to develop listening skills at the CLB 4 level
- to increase vocabulary among learners
- to increase knowledge of news stories
- to provide a self-study tool, as well as, an ESL classroom resource



[www.alberta.ca](http://www.alberta.ca)

<http://www.cbc.ca/calgary/learning-english/>

### **News story #1**

Before you listen to the first news story, complete this vocabulary activity. It will help you to understand the listening more easily.

**Vocabulary:** Use one of the vocabulary words below to complete the sentences. *Answers are in*

arrested (caught by the police)	allegations (statements/charges)	directed (managed)
resident (person who lives there)	sentence (give a punishment)	court (place of justice)
recognize (to believe to be true)	disbelief (refuse to believe)	plot (organized plan)

*the appendix.*

**Extra definitions to help you understand the reading:**

**Al-Qaeda** – a radical Sunni Muslim organization

**state of shock** – feeling very surprised

1. I have been a Canadian \_\_\_\_\_ for 15 years.
2. Non-Christians do not \_\_\_\_\_ the bible to be the word of God.
3. When my family heard I wanted to move to Korea they were in a state of \_\_\_\_\_.
4. The police \_\_\_\_\_ the criminal last week. Tomorrow he will need to go to \_\_\_\_\_ and if the judge finds him guilty the judge will \_\_\_\_\_ him.
5. The criminal's lawyer will fight against the \_\_\_\_\_.
6. The children had a \_\_\_\_\_ to distract their mother while their brother took the cookies from the table.
7. The head office in Calgary \_\_\_\_\_ the projects around the province.

Now listen to the first news story from the audio file.

### **Listening activity: Multiple Choice**

Choose the best answer to complete the sentences. *Answers are in the appendix.*

1. Two men have been _____ with planning to attack a Via rail train.	a) arrested and charged b) caught and sentenced
2. The RCMP say this _____ in Canada directed by al-Qaida.	a) is the first known plot b) was an unknown plot
3. If Chiheb Esseghaier and Raed Jaser are found guilty _____ .	a) they will be sentenced in Toronto and Montreal b) they could be sentenced to life in prison
4. Esseghaier _____ the Canadian Criminal Code because it is "not a holy book."	a) says he doesn't recognize b) says he doesn't trust
5. Esseghaier and Jasser have their next _____ on May 23 <sup>rd</sup> .	a) meetings with their lawyer b) court appearances
6. Jaser " _____ " and says the allegations against him are not true.	a) is in a state of guilt and horror b) is in a state of shock and disbelief

**Discussion Question:** Have you ever travel by train in Canada? Should there be more security checks on all forms of public transport?

## News story #2

Before you listen to the second news story, complete this vocabulary activity. It will help you to understand the listening more easily.

### Vocabulary

Match the words with their definitions. *Answers are in the appendix.*

Answer	Word	Definition
1.	court	a) the past tense of fight; to argue your innocence
2.	ticket	b) French speakers
3.	illegal	c) a judgment made in court
4.	fought	d) a place where a judge decides if a person is guilty or innocent
5.	appeal	e) Canada's main laws for all the country/citizens
6.	decision	f) a request to have your (legal) case looked at again
7.	protected	g) something you are not allowed to do by law
8.	constitution	h) story of a person presented in court
9.	Francophones	i) A form of punishment in which you have to pay money
10.	case	j) t to be guarded to ensure continued

### Extra definitions to help you understand the reading:

**Court of Appeal** – Alberta's highest court. This court hears cases that have been appealed from the Court of Queen's Bench, the Provincial Court and administrative tribunals.

Now listen to the second news story from the audio file.

### Listening Activity: Short Answer

Read and answer the questions below. *Answers are in the appendix.*

1. What will Alberta's highest court decide?
2. What is Gilles Caron's case about?
3. Why did Gilles Caron fight his ticket?
4. What did Caron's lawyer say about French language rights?
5. If Caron wins this case what will it tell Francophones?
6. How long could it take for the court to decide?

### Discussion Question

Can you speak French? Would you like to learn Canada's second official language?

How important do you think it is that all things in Alberta and Canada be written in both languages?

### News story #3

Before you listen to the third news story, complete this vocabulary activity. It will help you to understand the listening more easily.

### Vocabulary

Match the words with their definitions. *Answers are in the appendix.*

Answer	Word from the story	Related words
	1) well-known	a) inquiry study
	2) defending	b) gift of money election funds
	3) leaked	c) given out made public
	4) aldermen	d) reputation honor
	5) donations	e) proof signs
	6) evidence	f) member of council elected municipal official
	7) investigation	g) famous familiar
	8) integrity	h) protect keep safe

#### Extra definition to help you understand the reading:

**to stack council:** to try to ensure enough ‘friendly’ aldermen are elected to council to get favourable decisions

Now listen to the third news story from the audio file.

### Listening Activity: True/False

Decide whether the statements below are **true** or **false**. Write your answer in the blanks. *Answers are in the appendix.*

1. \_\_\_\_\_ Cal Wenzel is the founder of a construction company in Calgary.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ A video seems to show him planning to give money to get favourable decisions from council.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ The Mayor of Calgary is not concerned about the comments.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ Wenzel says he is sorry for making the comments.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ Wenzel is concerned that his reputation is being attacked.

### Discussion Question

Do you think that all political donations should be banned? Can politicians take donations without being influenced by those people who give the money?

## Language Focus

### Conditional Sentences

Conditional sentences are often called ‘if clauses.’

There are **four types** of conditional phrases used in English.

1. The first conditional is a real possibility; it could happen in the future

Example: If it snows tomorrow, I will feel annoyed.

2. The second conditional is not a real possibility; it probably won’t happen in the future.

Example: If I won lottery, I would buy a new home.

3. The third conditional talks about the past; it is too late to happen, there is no possibility for the condition to happen.

Example: If I had studied, I would have passed the exam.

4. The forth conditional is called Zero Conditional. It is always true, like a scientific fact.

Example: If I am late, my boss is unhappy.

**Forming the Conditional:** When forming the conditional sentences, pay attention to the verb forms in each part of the sentence: the condition and the result.

Type	If Clause = the condition	Main clause = result
1	If + simple present	Will (can, shall, may) +infinitive
2	If + simple past	Would (could, should, might) + infinitive
3	If + past perfect	Would (could, should) have + past participle
4	If/When + Present simple	Present simple

Note: The If-clause and the main clause can switch places/order. Look at the following examples and decide which type of conditional they are: *Answers are in the appendix.*

- 1. I would have won the competition, if I had practiced more.
- 2. I could pass the exam, if I had more time to study.
- 3. Water boils when it is heated to 100 degrees Celsius.
- 4. I will make dinner tonight, if I get home early enough.

Let’s look at some examples from our stories this week. Which type of conditional are these examples? *Answers are in the appendix.*

- 1. “If found guilty, they could be sentenced to life in prison.”
- 2. “If Caron wins it will tell Francophones that it’s normal to be able to speak French in western Canada.”

Can you make your own sentences using the four different types of conditionals?

## Transcripts of Weekly news stories

	APRIL 26 <sup>TH</sup> WEEKLY NEWS STORIES	TIME
Introduction	Hi, this is Carla Beynon. You're listening to Learning English with CBC for April 26 <sup>th</sup> .	0:00
Story 1	<p>Two men have been arrested and charged with planning to attack a Via rail train. The RCMP say this is the first known plot in Canada directed by al-Qaeda. Thirty-year-old Chiheb Esseghaier lives in Montreal. Thirty-five-year-old Raed Jaser is a Toronto resident. If found guilty, they could be sentenced to life in prison.</p> <p>Esseghaier, a PhD student, said in court he doesn't recognize the Canadian Criminal Code because it is "not a holy book." Their next court appearances are May 23. Jaser's lawyer says his client "is in a state of shock and disbelief" and says the allegations against him are not true.</p>	0:10
Story 2	Alberta's highest court will decide if the province's laws will have to be written in English and French. The Court of Appeal is hearing the case of truck driver Gilles Caron, who got a ticket for an illegal turn. He fought the ticket because it was written in English only and he won. The province appealed that decision. Caron's lawyer argued this week that French language rights are protected in the constitution and that if Caron wins it will tell Francophones that it's normal to be able to speak French in western Canada. The court could take months to reach a decision.	0:56
Story 3	A well-known Calgary homebuilder is defending himself after a video was leaked to the media this week. The video seems to show Shane Homes founder Cal Wenzel planning to stack Calgary city council with business-friendly aldermen through election donations. His comments were filmed secretly at a meeting. Mayor Naheed Nenshi says it shows clear evidence of wrongdoing and is calling for an investigation. Wenzel says he was exercising his democratic right and did nothing wrong. He says his integrity is under attack.	01:35

## Answer keys

### News story 1

#### Vocabulary

1. I have been a Canadian resident for 15 years.
2. Non-Christians do not recognize the bible to be the word of God.
3. When my family heard I wanted to move to Korea they were in a state of disbelief.
4. The police arrested the criminal last week. Tomorrow he will need to go to court and if the judge finds him guilty the judge will sentence him.
5. The criminal's lawyer will fight against the allegations.
6. The children had a plot to distract their mother while their brother took the cookies from the table.
7. The head office in Calgary directed the projects around the province.

#### Listening

1. Two men have been _____ with planning to attack a Via rail train.	a) arrested and charged b) caught and sentenced
2. The RCMP say this _____ in Canada directed by al-Qaida.	a) is the first known plot b) was an unknown plot
3. If Chiheb Esseghaier and Raed Jaser are found guilty _____ .	a) they will be sentenced in Toronto and Montreal b) they could be sentenced to life in prison
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5. Esseghaier and Jasser have their next _____ on May 23 <sup>rd</sup> .	a) meetings with their lawyer b) court appearances
6. Jaser " _____ " and says the allegations against him are not true.	a) is in a state of guilt and horror b) is in a state of shock and disbelief

### News story 2

#### Vocabulary

Answer	Word	Definition
d	1. court	a) the past tense of fight; to argue your innocence
i	2. ticket	b) French speakers
g	3. illegal	c) a judgment made in court
a	4. fought	d) a place where a judge decides if a person is guilty or innocent
f	5. appeal	e) Canada's main laws for all the country/citizens
c	6. decision	f) a request to have your (legal) case looked at again

j	7. protected	g) something you are not allowed to do by law
e	8. constitution	h) story of a person presented in court
b	9. Francophones	i) A form of punishment in which you have to pay money
h	10. case	j) to be guarded to ensure continued existence

## Listening

Read and answer the questions below.

1. What will Alberta's highest court decide? *It will decide if the province's laws will have to be written in English and French.*
2. What is Gilles Caron's case about? *He got a ticket for an illegal turn.*
3. Why did Gilles Caron fight his ticket? *He fought the ticket because it was written in English only.*
4. What did Caron's lawyer say about French language rights? *He said that French language rights are protected in the constitution.*
5. If Caron wins this case what will it tell Francophones? *If Caron wins it will tell Francophones that it's normal to be able to speak French in western Canada.*
6. How long could it take for the court to decide? *It could take months.*

## News story 3

### Vocabulary

Answer	Word from the story	Related words
g	1) well-known	a) inquiry study
h	2) defend	b) gift of money election funds
c	3) leaked	c) given out made public
f	4) aldermen	d) reputation honor
b	5) donations	e) proof signs
e	6) evidence	f) member of council elected municipal official
a	7) investigation	g) famous familiar
d	8) integrity	h) protect keep safe

## Listening

1. True Cal Wenzel is the founder of a construction company in Calgary.
2. True A video seems to show him planning to give money to get favourable decisions from council.
3. False The Mayor of Calgary is not concerned about the comments.
4. False Wenzel says he is sorry for making the comments.
5. True Wenzel is concerned that his reputation is being attacked.

## Language Focus

- 3 1. I would have won the competition, if I had practiced more.  
2 2. I could pass the exam, if I had more time to study.  
4 3. Water boils when it is heated to 100 degrees Celsius.  
1 4. I will make dinner tonight, if I get home early enough.

Let's look at some examples from our stories this week

- 2 1. "If found guilty, they could be sentenced to life in prison."  
1 2. "If Caron wins it will tell Francophones that it's normal to be able to speak French in western Canada."